



# INTELLIGENCE NOTE

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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## SOVIET ICBM DEVELOPMENTS: STRAWS IN THE WIND

The Soviet ICBM program is in a transitional state. The SS-9, SS-11 and SS-13 deployment programs are now essentially complete. New ICBM deployment began last fall, however; it is in an early stage and its purpose is still unclear. ICBM R & D testing is at an all time low, although there are persuasive indications that major new ICBM developmental testing programs are to begin shortly. This paper reviews the evidence and expresses some preliminary conclusions regarding anticipated new ICBM programs.

### ACTIVITY AT THE TEST RANGES

The clearest indication that a new missile development program is underway in the USSR -- prior to initial flight testing -- is usually the construction of new and different facilities at the test ranges. Since the fall of 1970 there has been considerable activity at the Tyuratam missile test center, indicating that the Soviets probably are preparing to test a new large liquid-fueled ICBM and very likely a new small liquid-fueled ICBM as well. The most important of these activities are:

DOS review(s)  
completed.

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New Large Missile:

Eight silos of a new type, designated III-F, have been observed under construction at Tyuratam.\* Some of these are converted III-C (SS-9) silos, while others represent entirely new construction. In all cases, a new construction technique has been employed and the silos appear to be significantly "harder" (i.e., less vulnerable) than earlier types of Soviet silos. The size of the III-F silos suggests that they are for a new large missile, but they appear to be too small for launching the SS-9 unless a new launch technique were developed.

The launch pads at Complex "H" at Tyuratam, where all four variants of the SS-9 were first tested, have undergone significant modification in recent months and one may now be ready for use. In addition, a new type of missile transporter was observed at this complex.

New Small Missile:

Seven additional silos, designated type III-G, are being built in another area at Tyuratam. They are of a configuration similar to the III-F silos but smaller in size and with certain distinctive

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\* The Soviets have traditionally used unique silos for missile systems; e.g., the SS-9, SS-11 and SS-13 missiles are associated with the III-C, III-D and III-E silos, respectively.

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features. Some are completely new, while others are converted III-D (SS-11) silos. The size of these new silos is compatible with the SS-11 missile.

In the area where the III-G silos are being constructed, a new propellant handling facility is being built. It is different from any other seen in the Soviet Union, suggesting that it is to support testing of a new liquid-propellant ICBM, presumably one in the SS-11 class.

#### DEPLOYMENT AT OPERATIONAL COMPLEXES

In addition to the activity at the test range, type III-F silos are under construction at all but one SS-9 complex. Presumably, they are intended for the new large ICBM which the Soviets appear to be preparing to test at Tyuratam. Type III-G silos are under construction at two SS-11 complexes in the Ukraine -- Derazhnaya and Pervomaysk -- where a few MR/IRBMs are also deployed. They may be intended for deployment of SS-11s or the new small ICBM which the Soviets may be preparing to test at Tyuratam, or both.

It cannot be determined whether the new silos are intended to replace existing SS-9 and SS-11 silos, or whether they represent the deployment of additional ICBMs.

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a bearing on the accuracy of the MIRVed system. It is stressed that any such associations at this stage are speculative -- "straws in the wind" -- and that until flight testing to ICBM range actually begins, we can only guess as to the characteristics of a new system.

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